

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Activity Report of the Chief Officer



HAMPSHIRE
**FIRE AND
RESCUE**
AUTHORITY

We make life safer

Cover photo: Curzon Road, Waterlooville (see1.3)

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Introduction

This activity report covers the period 12 August 2012 to 30 October 2012. Any notable incidents that occurred after 30 October 2012 and before the report has been issued are listed in the back in the “Stop Press” section of the report.

This report highlights the varied nature of the incidents attended by our response crews. Sadly during this reporting period the Service responded to two separate incidents involving the deaths of two individuals. One female died during a fire in a residential flat and one male died from the deliberate inhalation of chemicals. In addition, crews also responded to the crash of a light aircraft in Popham and to fires in domestic and commercial properties.

This report also highlights the continued integrated work of our Prevention and Protection teams. The work of our Arson Task Force and Schools Education Team continues to achieve excellent results, both teams are seen as demonstrating best practice in their respective areas. Protection officers across the county continue to work closely with their Response colleagues and with local authorities to identify and reduce risk to our local communities.

1.1

Woman dies in Stubbington fire

A woman died following a severe fire at a flat in St Marks Road, Stubbington on 2 September 2012.

Fire Control received a 999 call at 23:23 and crews arrived at Spencer Court within six minutes to discover a fully developed fire in a ground floor flat.

More than 20 firefighters from Fareham, Gosport and Cosham battled intense heat and extinguished the blaze using six sets of breathing apparatus, two jets and one hose reel.

Firefighters managed to bring the fire under control and extinguish it in the face of extreme conditions, but were unable to save a woman who had sadly died. A lady living in the flat above was taken to Queen Alexandra Hospital to be treated for mild smoke inhalation. The investigation is currently ongoing and awaiting a date for the Coroner's Court.

1.2

Firefighters rescue family from house fire in Basingstoke

Hampshire firefighters leapt into action to rescue two people from a fire at 04:19 on 7 September 2012 in Tadley, Basingstoke.

Hampshire firefighters leapt into action to rescue two people from a fire at 04:19 on 7 September 2012 in Tadley, Basingstoke.

The family was alerted to the fire by their smoke alarm in the early stages of the fire which had started in the kitchen. One family member managed to escape from the ground floor but two others were unable to escape because of the smoke and were rescued by firefighters.

Crews from Tadley and Basingstoke managed to rescue two people from an upper floor window and bring them to safety. One jet, two breathing apparatus and two hose reels were used to bring the fire under control.

An investigation determined that the most likely cause of the fire was accidental.

1.3

Waterlooville building severely damaged in blaze

Nearly 60 firefighters fought a blaze in a derelict two-storey building in Waterlooville in the early hours of 12 September 2012.

Crews were called to Curzon Road at 03:27 and discovered the disused building well alight.

The first floor of the building and the roof were completely destroyed by the fire.

Crews from Waterlooville, Cosham, Havant, St Mary's, Wickham and Southsea fought the fire along with the aerial ladder platforms from Basingstoke and Redbridge. Six jets and two sets of breathing apparatus were used to tackle the blaze.

An investigation determined that the cause was arson.

Three 16 year-old boys arrested on suspicion of arson, have been bailed until 29 November 2012 pending further enquiries.



1.4

Firefighters contain refuse fire over five days

On 28 September 2012 a fire broke out at a shipyard in Hazel Road, Woolston.

The yard contained 30,000 tonnes of rubbish and over half an acre of it was on fire. HFRS attended the site for over five days involving a total of 41 appliances, before the incident could be handed over to the site owners.

1.5

Lorries damaged in fire at industrial unit near Havant

Four lorries were damaged as more than 30 Hampshire firefighters tackled a fire at an industrial unit near Havant on 6 October 2012.

Crews were called to Larchwood Avenue, Bedhampton at 18:43 and arrived to find a well-developed fire in a single-storey unit.

Control room operators received more than 30 emergency calls from the public due to the location's proximity to the A3(M) and the Asda supermarket.

Firefighters from Cosham, Havant, St Mary's, Southsea, Portchester, Eastleigh and Fareham used 12 sets of breathing apparatus, three jets and a hose reel to extinguish the blaze.

The fire was extinguished by 21:20, and an investigation into the cause of the blaze is continuing.

1.6

Fire crews tackle New Forest thatch fire

Fifty firefighters contained a fire in the roof of a thatched farmhouse in the New Forest on 16 October 2012.

Control operators received a call from the occupier and mobilised crews to the cottage on Romsey Road, Cadnam, just before 17:30.

They discovered a fire in the roof and loft space and swiftly applied compressed air foam (CAFS) and water to contain the blaze.

The prompt action confined the flames to one end of the roof of the L-shaped construction and firefighters also cut away parts of the thatch to stop the spread of the flames.

Crews from Lyndhurst, Totton, Romsey, Eastleigh, Ringwood, Fordingbridge, Lymington, St Mary's and Beaulieu initially tackled the blaze.

An investigation determined the cause as accidental with ignition of thatch from sparks emitted from the chimney.



02 Community Safety (incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.1

Prince's Trust

The Trust has recently started two teams, one in Rushmoor and one in Southampton. They were overwhelmed by the recruitment response for both teams as over 100 young people applied.

The Rushmoor Team 5 has started with 17 young people, and they have carried out a community project for the Brain Tumour Charity in Farnborough.

The Southampton Team 31 has started with 18 young people, and their community project took place at Coppice Pickles Children's Centre in Redbridge.

The Prince's Trust nationally has undergone a restructure and we are now in the South Region (three regions in total). Our department has also been restructured to provide two new full-time team leader posts which started on 1 November 2012.

2.2

Firesetters Intervention Scheme

The Firesetter Intervention Scheme has undertaken 38 juvenile referrals and two adult referrals in this reporting period. They have also attended multi-agency meetings and events.



02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.3

Road safety

Station open days at Hightown, Hartley Wintney, Southsea, Andover and Eastleigh have promoted road safety, supported by the Road Safety department. In addition, the second HMS Sultan 'family safety day' was attended by the Schools Education, Home and Road Safety teams.

We have continued to assist with the College Road Safety Week programme, providing resources at Bay House School (Gosport), Yateley Sixth Form, Brockenhurst and Sparsholt Colleges, raising awareness of seatbelt and moped safety. We have also supported Fresher Fairs at Highbury and Portsmouth Colleges.

Operational crews assisted Hampshire County Council's 'Fit it Right' car seat campaign at Hedge End and Aldershot.

With guidance from the Road Safety team, Bordon Fire Station organised a young driver engagement event in response to local incidents.

The RideSMART volunteers attended 14 events including Hightown Fire Station's biker day and 'ladies who ride' motorcycle group ride-out, where rider information cards were given to all participants.

In support of partner's motorcycle activities, the police have run three BikeSafe courses and Solent Advanced Motorcyclists (Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) regional group) have held three training days at Winchester Road Safety Centre.

2.4

Home safety visits

During this reporting period we have conducted 2464 home safety visits (HSV), targeted at those we consider to be most at risk, and we installed 2589 smoke detectors as a result.

These visits were delivered where the need and risk was greatest. The visits were identified through MOSAIC data, post incident protocols, referrals from our partner agencies and through internal safeguarding procedures. This reflects our drive to identify the most vulnerable people in Hampshire, through working with partner agencies and the good work of our personnel.

The visits were delivered by a combination of wholetime, retained duty system, green book personnel and, on occasion, our partner organisations such as The Blue Lamp Trust.

We have also worked with a number of social services teams, care commissioners and social housing providers up and down the county, to provide fire safety advice and recommendations to protect the most vulnerable within our communities.

We have been working towards using existing resources to form a new team of eight community safety officers. These officers will be able to provide an increased level of support to managers when delivering their group and station plan objectives. They will also provide more focused guidance and advice to our partners when identifying vulnerable people, ensuring that they receive the appropriate interventions which will protect them from fire.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.5

Schools Education Team

We began this new academic year with our new staff structure. This has assisted us to effectively streamline our delivery to the most vulnerable young people at Key Stages 3 and 4 in our county, whilst still managing to increase our output considerably from the same reporting period last year.

We delivered our targeted safety education programme to the following number of pupils in school:

3,492 Key Stage 1 pupils during 58 visits (up 34% on this time last year)

3,998 Key Stage 2 pupils during 67 visits (up 20% on this time last year)

132 Key Stage 3/4 pupils during 11 school visits. We also undertook additional visits with young people in youth settings.

We took part in the following additional education events with partner agencies:

- HM Prison Service 'Prison Me No Way' crime awareness days in four secondary schools with 775 Year 8 and 9 pupils.
- Local Education Business Partnerships - running our build a smoke alarm scenario at a science fair with 108 pupils from primary schools across Hampshire.
- Hampshire Constabulary - joint Halloween and Bonfire Night initiative in secondary schools across the county. Our team supported 14 assemblies to 2,800 pupils.
- Southampton University – we provided one of the workshop options at a teacher training day for Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) students, this was selected and attended by 90 students.
- HCC teachers Continual Professional Development (CPD) conference where we spoke to 60 teachers responsible for Personal Development Learning (PDL) in their schools.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.6

Fire investigation

There have been 42 fire investigations in the reporting period, 21 deliberate fires, 20 non-suspicious and one undetermined. There have also been two fatalities over this reporting period. (For more details on the fatalities see 1.1 and Test Valley and Eastleigh Group).

The Fire Investigation team and Arson Task Force have supported the investigation of 21 arson offences, with arrests made in relation to 11 of the offences committed in Basingstoke and Deane, Havant and East Hampshire, Fareham and Gosport, Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester groups.

Case results being received in relation to five investigations during this reporting period are detailed below:

1. Following an act of arson in Manor Park Drive, Yateley on Tuesday 17 April 2012, William Joseph King was found guilty of committing arson being reckless. At the hearing on Thursday 23 August 2012 at Winchester Crown Court, Mr King was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment.
2. Following an act of arson in London Road, Waterlooville on 6 March 2011, Stephen Paul Armstrong was found guilty of committing arson. At the hearing on Friday 24 August 2012 at Portsmouth Crown Court, Mr Armstrong was sentenced to 2.5 years imprisonment.

3. Following an act of arson to 17 vehicles in the Havant, Sarisbury Green and Titchfield area over the September/October period 2011, Shaun Robert Gibbs and Michael Alan Spencer were found guilty of conspiring to commit arson. At the hearing on Friday 12 October 2012 at Portsmouth Crown Court, both Mr Gibbs and Mr Spencer were sentenced to two years and eight months imprisonment.
4. Following an act of arson at Mansergh Walk, Totton on Monday 9 January 2012, Lee William Cooper was found guilty of committing arson being reckless. At the hearing on Friday 19 October 2012 at Winchester Crown Court, Mr Cooper was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.
5. Following an act of arson in St Edwards Road, Southsea on Thursday 23 February 2012, Virginia Sherratt was found guilty of committing arson with intent. At the hearing on 19 October 2012 at Portsmouth Crown Court, Ms Sherratt was sentenced to a hospital order, indefinitely.

Evidence found at the scenes by HFRS fire investigators, fire crews and Hampshire Constabulary crime scene investigators was instrumental in securing these convictions.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.7

National Resilience Capability

The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team continues to take a lead both nationally and internationally. Assistance and training has been given by Hampshire to both Merseyside and London with their integration into the UK-ISAR team for overseas deployments which are funded by the UK Government through The Department For International Development. Assistance has also been given by the team to Sweden, Turkey and Queensland, Australia.

Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 188

Smoke detectors fitted: 137

Fire Investigations

Basingstoke and Deane Group have had five investigations involving a recycling bin, three houses and a commercial office.

Arson and Risk Reduction

There were two fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic Risk Groups

D, H and K

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Unwanted Fire Signals

Following an unwanted fire alarm signal at a large hotel chain premises in Basingstoke, a post incident inspection and fire safety audit was carried out to see if there were any issues regarding the management and fire safety provisions at the premises. It was identified that the fire risk assessment needed to be reviewed and there was poor fire safety management, poor information to employees and inadequate training. A notification of fire safety deficiencies was issued.

Joint working with the local authority

Over the past six months we have been renewing our relations with the local authority agencies. This includes building control, environmental health, private sector housing (PSH), and the licensing department. Several alleged fire risks have originated from PSH. Closer liaison and pre-consultation with building control is also taking place. Joint working during performance visits to licensed premises have taken place with the licensing department and the police. These were premises identified by the police and the visits focused on licensing conditions, training and fire safety. We will be revisiting a licensed premises for a fire safety audit in the near future. Further leads have resulted in inspections in a halfway house for the homeless, a residential care premises, houses in multiple occupation and a number of public houses.

Enforcement

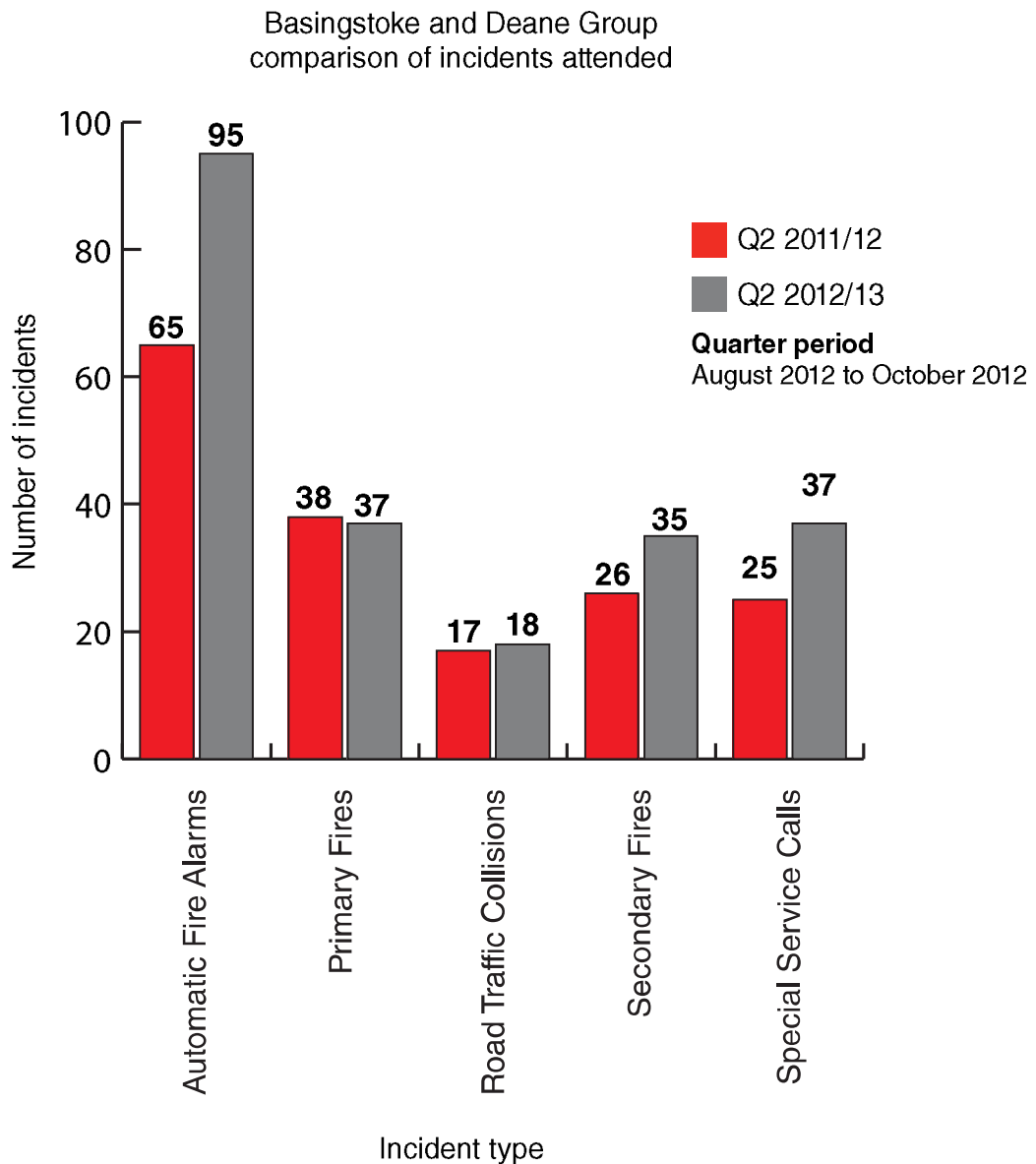
No enforcement notices were served in this period.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were served in this period.

Community Response

At 21:28 on 21 September 2012 six fire crews attended a fire involving cottages in South Litchfield. The roof was 100 percent damaged by fire, the first floor was 80 percent damaged by fire and the ground floor was severely damaged by water. Crews used one jet, three hose reels, one aerial ladder platform and four breathing apparatus. An investigation determined that the cause was accidental ignition by radiated heat from within the chimney breast.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 343
Smoke detectors fitted: 307

Fire Investigations

Rushmoor and Hart Group have had one investigation involving a farm warehouse.

Arson and Risk Reduction

There were two fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic Risk Groups

D, F and E

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Following information received from the Service's Safeguarding team, a fire safety audit was carried out to a flat following numerous cooking related incidents within the block, creating unwanted fire alarm signals. We carried out an inspection of the common areas of the block of flats and gave advice to the housing manager regarding the best evacuation procedure.

Following the receipt of a Building Regulations consultation for a factory in the Farnborough area, concerns were raised that the fire strategy showed that a klaxon was to be used as a means of raising the alarm. As a result, a fire safety audit was carried out and it was apparent that the main risks were the use of a mezzanine floor for work, insufficient fire detection for the premises, fire risk assessment not suitable or sufficient and the use of escape ladders as part of the evacuation plan was inappropriate. A notification of fire safety deficiencies was issued and this will be followed up.

Joint working

As part of our partnership working with Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC), private sector housing team concerns were raised regarding a house in multiple occupation (HMO) in Aldershot. RBC had previously served a prohibition on the premises. A joint visit was made to the property and the prohibition notice was being breached. In addition there was inadequate fire detection and the escape route was through the kitchen. Smoke detectors have been fitted to the premises to reduce the risk. Evidence has been taken and we will be supporting RBC as they look to take a prosecution against the owner. Following a Rushmoor Safety Advisory Group we visited the proposed Car Fest at Laverstoke, Overton. It was estimated that 20,000 people would be camping over a weekend. We worked with the management to resolve any fire safety issues. The event passed without incident.

Enforcement

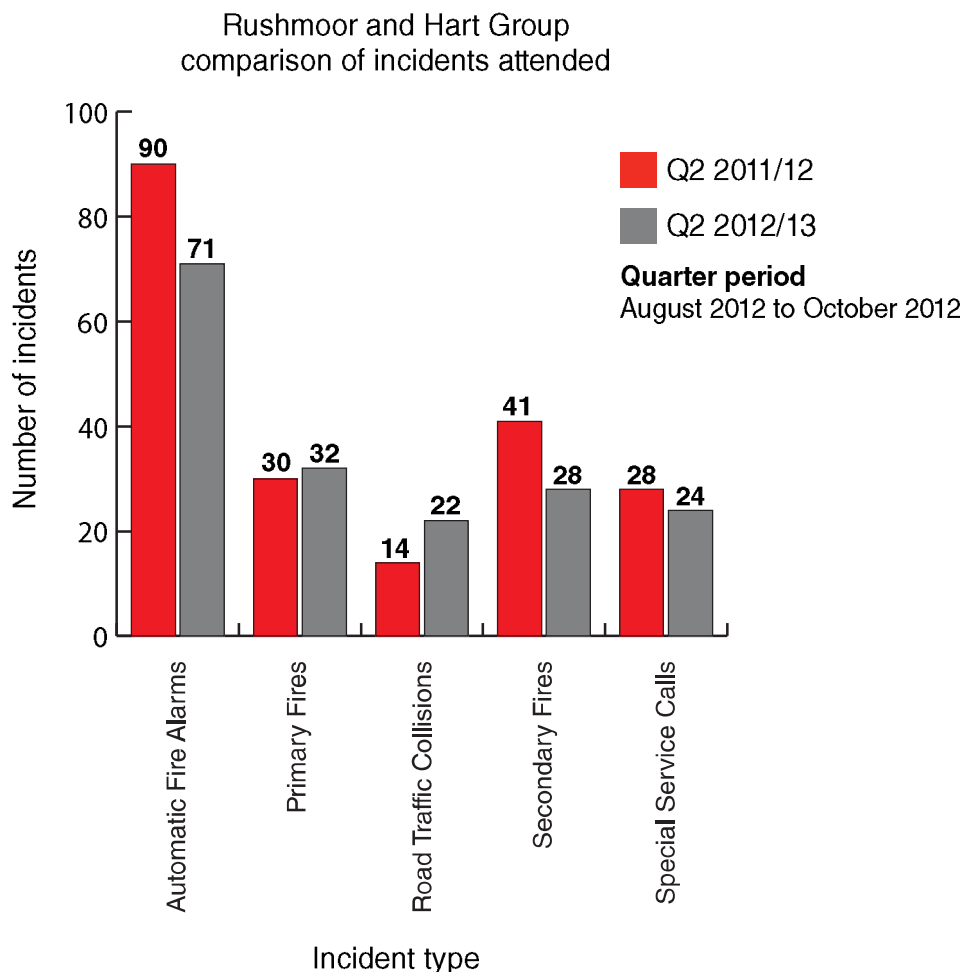
No enforcement notices were served in this period.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were served in this period.

Community Response

Fire crews were called to a fire at Oak Farm Nursery in Hartley Wintney on 24 September 2012 at 07:04. The building involved in fire was used for vehicle maintenance and was 75 percent damaged by fire. Fire crews used 14 breathing apparatus, two jets and two hose reels. The most likely cause of this fire was an electrical fault within a pressure washer.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 332

Smoke detectors fitted: 470

Fire Investigations

Havant and East Hampshire Group have had seven investigations involving a bungalow, twin outdoor structures, two houses, a vehicle, a warehouse and an agricultural building.

Arson and Risk Reduction

There were five fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic Risk Groups

D, B and M

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Following a major fire at the Curzon Rooms, Waterlooville, a post incident inspection was carried out. Working with building control, we were able to identify the main issues regarding fire safety provision in the adjacent premises. We advised on temporary measures that would enable the business to remain open, and agreed a strategy whereby the unstable structure would be removed to open up the means of escape earlier than would have been possible. A safe, proactive solution for all concerned.

Following a serious six pump fire in a row of industrial units in Purbrook, a post incident inspection was carried out to see if the fire safety provisions within the units were adequate. During the fire the compartmentation was compromised with smoke spread due to inadequate separation. We will now be working with the responsible persons for each unit to look to improve the separation and mitigate the risk of fire spread.

Joint working

As part of our business support focus, we attended a business watch event at Langstone Technology Park in Havant in September. The event was organised by the police and aimed at local businesses in the business watch area, providing them with information with particular focus on crime reduction and safety. The event was well attended by local small and medium enterprises from Havant. Advice was given by our inspectors on fire risk assessments, compliance with fire safety legislation, business continuity and sprinklers.

Protection, prevention and response working

Following an environmental visual audit carried out by the rural safety officer based at Alton, the protection office was passed information regarding concerns about the provisions for fire safety at a sports shop in the area. As a result, a fire safety audit was carried out and enforcement action taken.

Further inspections have been made following information from response crews in the East Hampshire Group about a block of flats, a health centre, a pizza takeaway, a public house with sleeping accommodation and a well-known high street retail store.

Themed inspection

As part of a themed inspection we have been targeting licensed (and other commercial) premises which provide sleeping accommodation above. In this reporting period we visited premises in Liphook, Petersfield and Bordon. These were dealt with by informal enforcement.

Following a complaint from a member of the public, a fire safety audit was carried out on a nursing home in Petersfield. We found that improvements were needed to the fire alarm system, the emergency lighting and the means of escape. The initial action was to be an enforcement notice, however, with the officer working with the management of the premises, an action plan has been agreed to address the issues.

Partnership working

As part of our commitment to working with the local authorities, we attend the Safety Advisory Group meetings. As a result of one of the meetings, we made an inspection of the Liphook Village Centre in anticipation of the Liphook carnival, firework and bonfire event. We have given advice to the responsible persons in respect of the fire risk assessment, the management plan for the event and the attendance of approximately 2000 people.

We have assisted businesses in resolving serious fire safety shortcomings by actively advising staff and responsible persons in resolving fire safety deficiencies, thus avoiding potential legal action.

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were served in this period.

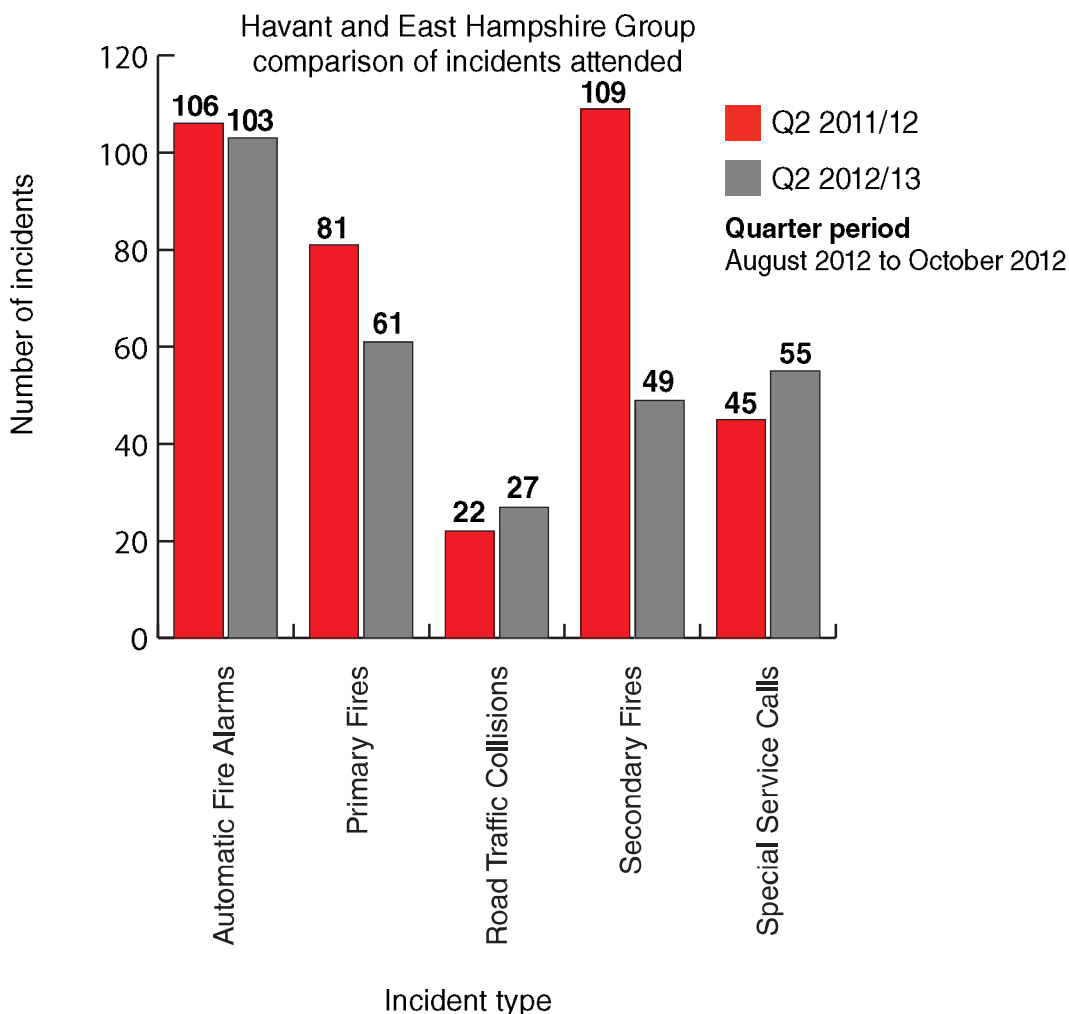
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were served in this period.

Community Response

On 12 September 2012 six crews were called to a derelict building in Curzon Road, Waterlooville. The first floor and roof were 100 percent damaged by fire. The front of building was made safe and crews used two aerial ladder platform monitors and two breathing apparatus. An investigation determined that the cause of the fire was arson by ignition of combustible materials and the police investigation is still ongoing.

On 6 October 2012 at 18:43 fire crews were alerted to a fire in Larchwood Avenue, Bedhampton. The site had four industrial units of steel construction. One of the units contained two vehicles, one damaged by fire and one by smoke. The remainder of the units were all severely damaged by smoke. Crews used 12 breathing apparatus, three jets and one hose reel to bring the blaze under control. An investigation into the cause is still ongoing. (For more details see 1.5)



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 284
Smoke detectors fitted: 366

Fire Investigations

Fareham and Gosport Group have had two investigations in this reporting period, involving a flat and a house.

Arson and Risk Reduction

There were two fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic Risk Groups

E, M and J

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

As part of our themed inspections of care homes, inspectors from the Fareham office have visited a number of homes in this period. Five premises have resulted in action being taken by the Protection department. The main issues and general themes identified within these premises have been; fire risk assessments were not suitable or sufficient, a poor standard of compartmentation, poor management of the premises, staff training and numbers and problems with means of escape. Initial action was to be formal enforcement. However, working with the management of the homes, action plans have been agreed to ensure the improvements are made.

Sprinklers

A new residential care home has opened in the Fareham area which includes a sprinkler system. Following correspondence with the architect and building control officer over the past two years, Willow Tree Lodge is now fully open and occupied. It is pleasing to note that the management of the facility took this forward step in fire safety provision.

Protection, Prevention and Response (PP&R) working

No enforcement notices were served during this period.

When response crews from Gosport attended a flat above a takeaway restaurant to carry out a home safety visit, it was found that employees were sleeping in an inner room off the kitchen with no alternative means of escape. As a result of this inspection a prohibition notice was issued preventing sleeping in the inner room.

Lift Incidents

The Protection department deal with the issues of preventable incidents. This includes looking to reduce the number of needless attendances at properties for lift releases.

We have been working with a responsible person or equivalent regarding a block of flats in Gosport over the past year. Despite our efforts we continued to be called out to lift incidents. As a result of the premises passing the trigger point of six lift incidents in a 12 month period, we invoiced them for £700 for the services of our operational crews. Following a further incident we invoiced them again for another £700. As a result we have worked with the responsible person for the premises and they are looking to connect a BT line to the lift car.

Acetylene

Due to the vigilance of our crews and the education of responsible persons by protection officers, we continue to be successful in reducing the number of incidents and the use of acetylene within Hampshire. We recently had information from crews from Gosport who were concerned about the storage and use of acetylene at a garage in Gosport. An inspection was carried out and advice was given on alternative products, as well as the storage and use of gases.

Enforcement

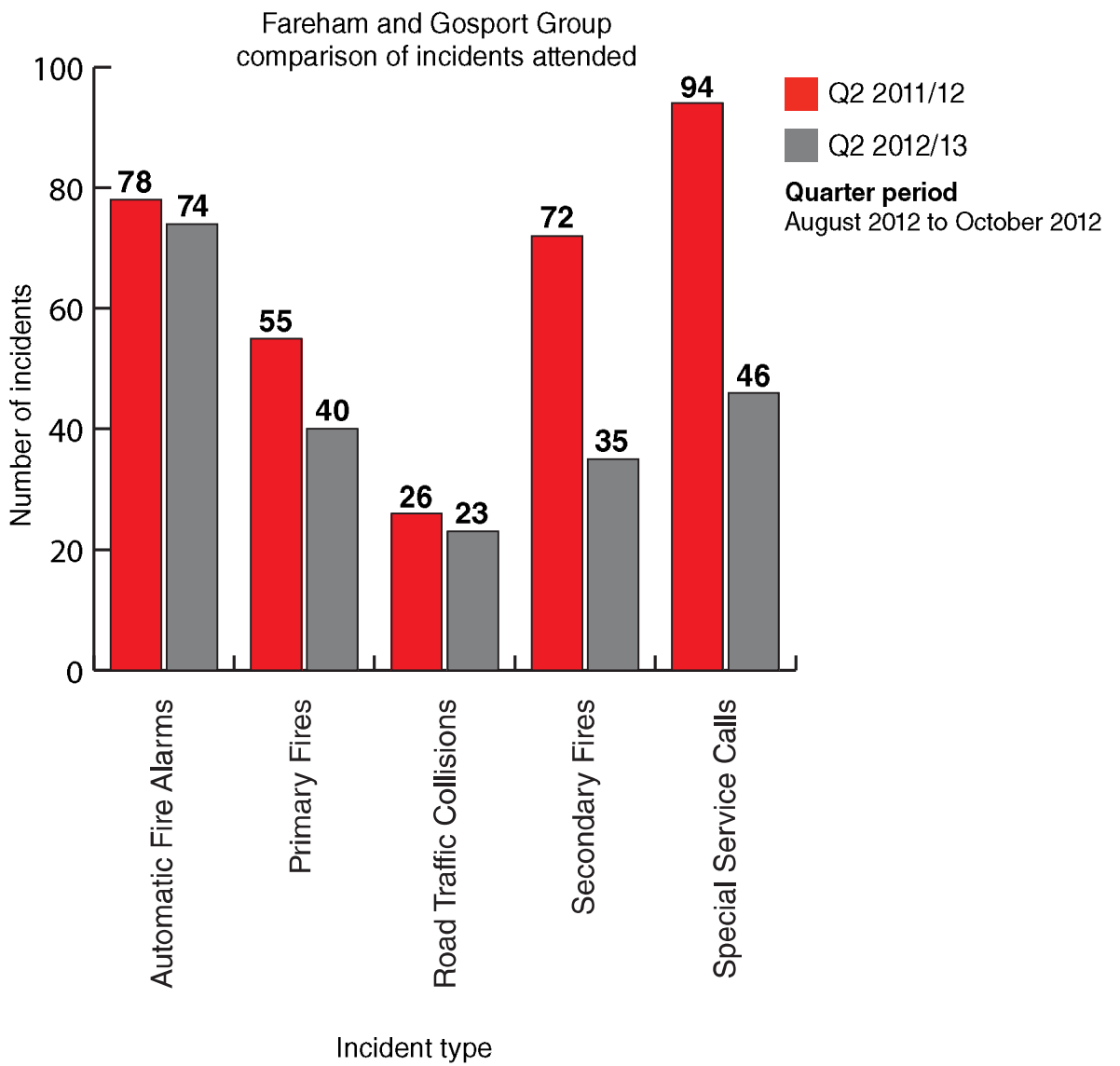
No enforcement notices were served in this period.

Prohibitions

One prohibition notice was served in this period.

Community Response

On 2 September 2012 fire crews were called to Marks Road in Stubbington where a fire had broken out in the ground floor flat. Sadly one female died in the fire. The ground floor flat was severely damaged by fire and the first floor flat had minor damage by heat and smoke. The investigation is currently ongoing and awaiting a date for the Coroner's Court. (For more details please see 1.1)



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 443
Smoke detectors fitted: 499

Fire Investigations

Portsmouth Group have had four investigations involving two houses, a hospital and a shop.

Arson and Risk Reduction

There were two fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic Risk Groups

G, N and I

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Crews from Southsea were called to an automatic fire alarm activation (AFA) at a licensed house in multiple occupation (HMO) occupied by students. On arrival they found that the alarm could not be silenced or reset, and could not be heard throughout the premises. The responsible person could not be contacted. As a result of this a prohibition notice was served. We worked with the University of Portsmouth security staff who managed to get all 23 students re-housed for the evening.

Following a fire in a chip shop in Southsea it was identified that the only means of escape for the people living above was through the shop itself. A prohibition notice was served on the responsible person.

We received a report from the Immigration Office that people were sleeping in inappropriate places above a takeaway. An inspection showed that they were sleeping in a loft area above the kitchen that was only accessible by a loft ladder. There was no adequate means of giving warning in case of fire. Because of the serious nature of this a prohibition notice was issued and is still in force.

Community liaison

A presentation was given to All Saints Church at a refugee and asylum seekers group. About 45 persons attended the presentation. Portsmouth is a handling centre for these people and this is a drop in centre.

We attended the Portsmouth Business Expo at the Pyramids Centre in Southsea during October. This event is attended by small and medium sized enterprises getting advice on starting up, continuing and improving business. The Community Contact Point was used and officers gave advice on all areas of fire safety including licensing.

Inspectors from the Southsea office attended the opening of a new Japanese restaurant in Southsea. The opportunity was taken to engage with members of the Black Minority Ethnic community, offering support and advice. From this event we have received requests from business owners requesting fire safety advice.

Consultation

Following a request from the owner we attended a disused cinema that had been converted to a snooker hall some years ago, but was now being refurbished to open a karaoke club. Whilst carrying out the visit it was evident that the tradesmen were sleeping on the premises, without any fire detection or other appropriate facilities. We worked with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and gave advice recommending that sleeping did not take place there, but if it did then smoke detectors should be fitted to provide early warning to the occupants.

We continue to work with our partners at the licensing section of the city council and with the local police. During this period we carried out two during performance visits to look at issues that had been identified by other agencies.

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were served in this period.

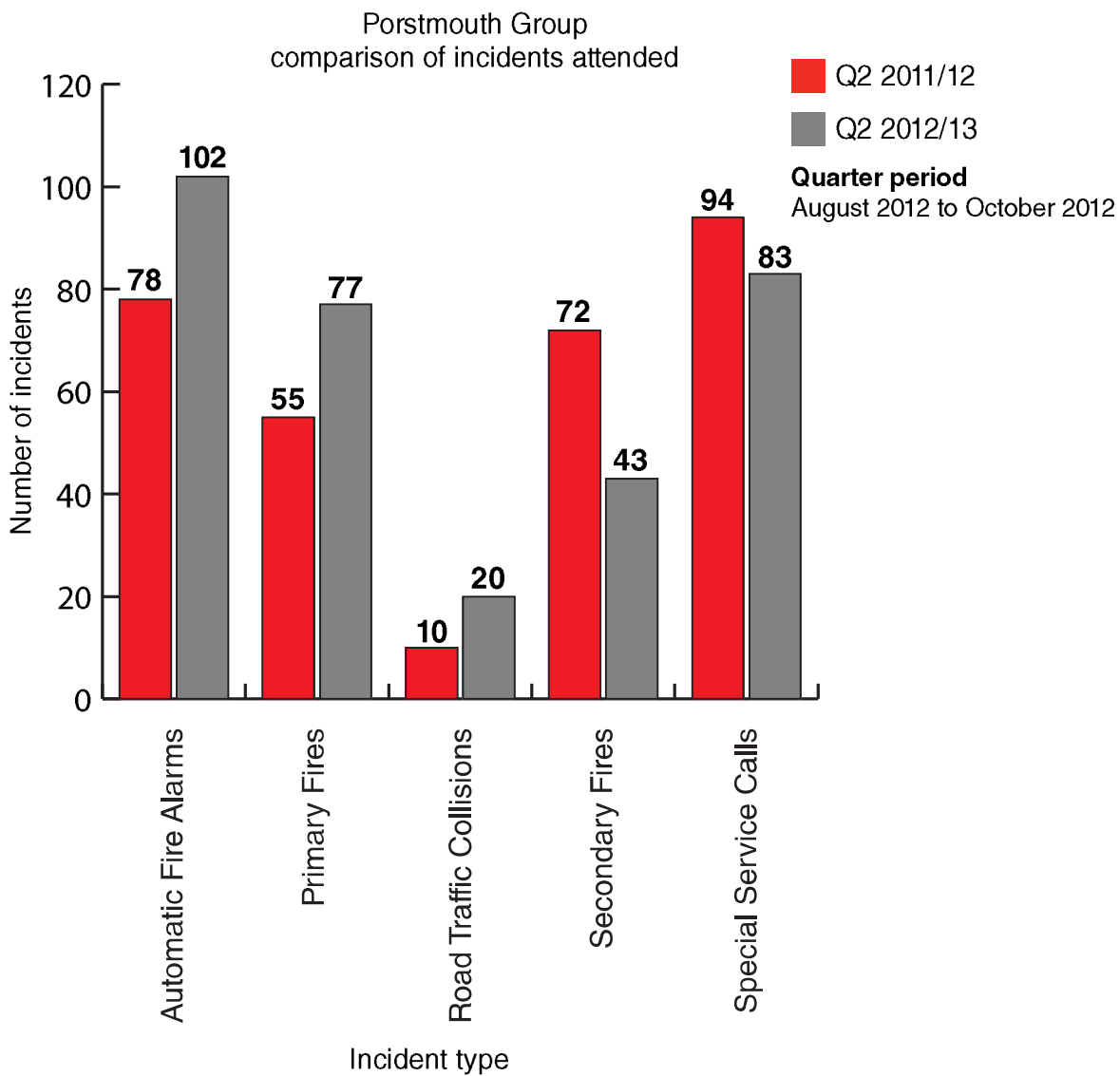
Prohibitions

Seven prohibition notices were served in this period.

Community Response

On 13 August 2012 we attended a fish and chip shop with a fire involving a chip pan in Castle Road, Southsea. Crews used two hose reels, one covering jet, a dry powder extinguisher and one fire blanket. Two casualties were assessed for smoke inhalation.

On 4 September 2012 at 21:46 four crews attended a fire in the kitchen of the ground floor dwelling in Chichester Road, Portsmouth. Two people were rescued before arrival and four people were taken to hospital suffering smoke inhalation. Crews used three jets, three hose reels and 12 breathing apparatus to extinguish the fire. The cause of the fire was accidental.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 91
Smoke detectors fitted: 110

Fire Investigations

Winchester Group have had two investigations involving an agricultural building and a house.

Arson and Risk Reduction

There were no fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic Risk Groups

D, A and M

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

As a result of our response staff having received specific training on fire safety protection issues called post incident protection protocols, and the close working partnerships with local authority enforcing bodies, we continue to see fire safety issues being highlighted. Winchester protection officers have responded to four alleged fire risks.

We continue to provide support and advice to the Winchester Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), Test Valley and Eastleigh SAG, Ageas Bowl SAG and the Thrupton SAG.

Automatic fire alarm (AFA) reduction

The Winchester office is actively reducing unwanted fire signal calls by inspecting the premises of persistent offenders that reach a total of six calls in a rolling 12 month period. We responded to 57 AFAs this period which is less than last quarter.

Non-emergency lift call reduction

We are active in reducing non-emergency lift calls by inspecting the premises of persistent offenders that reach a total of four non-emergency lift call outs in a rolling 12 month period. During this period we responded to seven lift call outs.

Enforcement

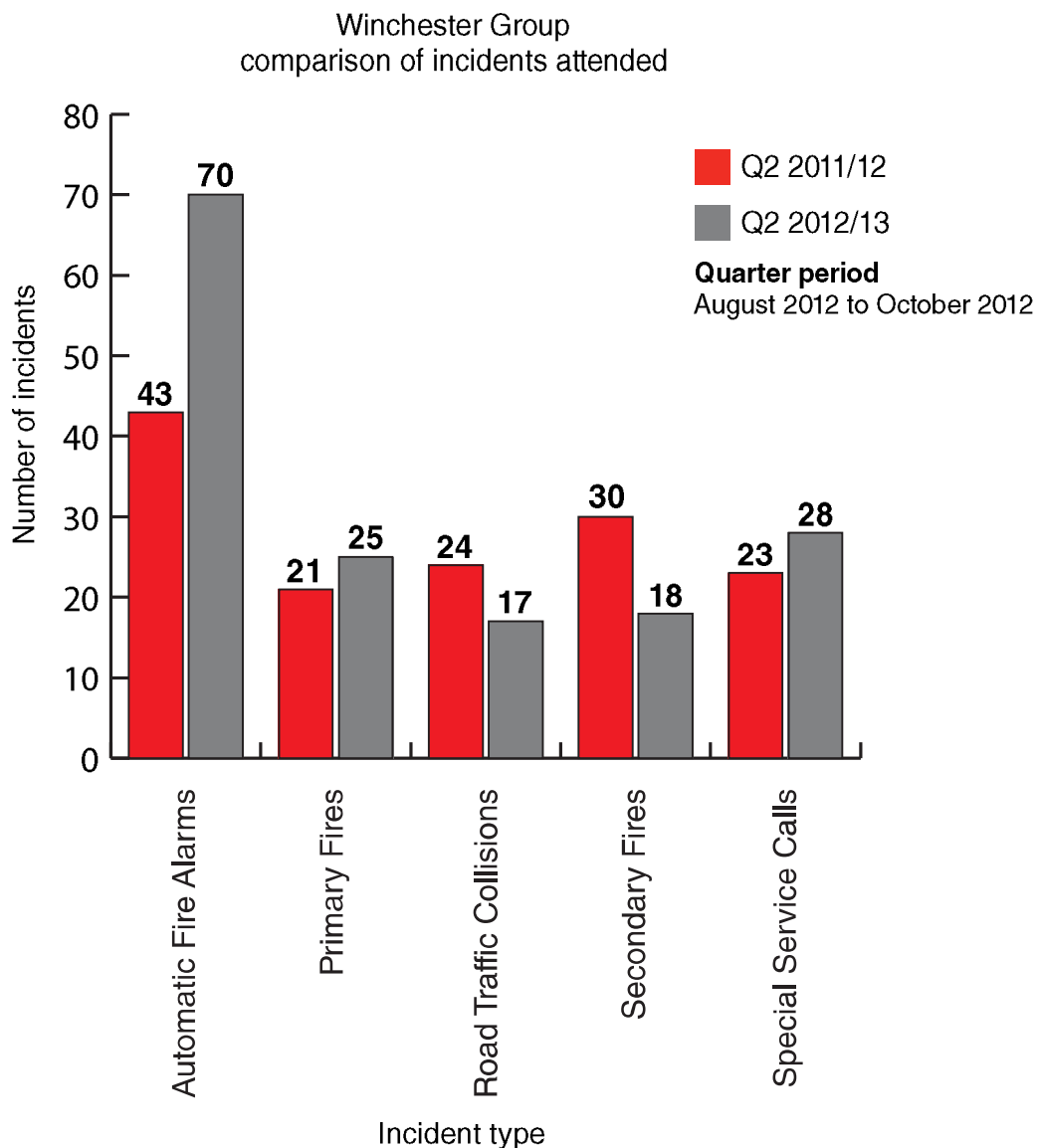
Two enforcement notices were served in Winchester on The Swan Pub in Barton Stacey and a bed and breakfast in Winchester. Four action plans have also been agreed during this period.

Prohibitions

There were two prohibition notices issued on a restaurant with sleeping accommodation above and a bed and breakfast.

Community Response

At 15:02 on 15 September 2012 Control were alerted to a light aircraft crash near the A303 in Popham. The aircraft came down and crashed into the undergrowth. Firefighters released two people who had become stuck in the aircraft and they were taken to hospital.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 159

Smoke detectors fitted: 167

Fire Investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group have had two investigations involving a domestic garage and a flat.

Arson and Risk Reduction

There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Mosaic Risk Groups

D, M and A

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Test Valley and Eastleigh protection officers have responded to five alleged fire risks.

The joint working with Eastleigh Borough Council HMO team continues to ensure safer shared domestic premises.

54 building regulations consultations and eight licensing act consultations have been completed in Test Valley and Eastleigh

One premises we have attended most for automatic fire alarm (AFA) in Andover will be making major changes to their policies and procedures as well as altering their maintenance schedule in an attempt to eliminate any further false calls being transmitted to HFRS. This change follows several on-site meetings with the responsible person.

Enforcement

One enforcement notice was served in this period on Entertainment Exchange in Andover. Five action plans have also been agreed.

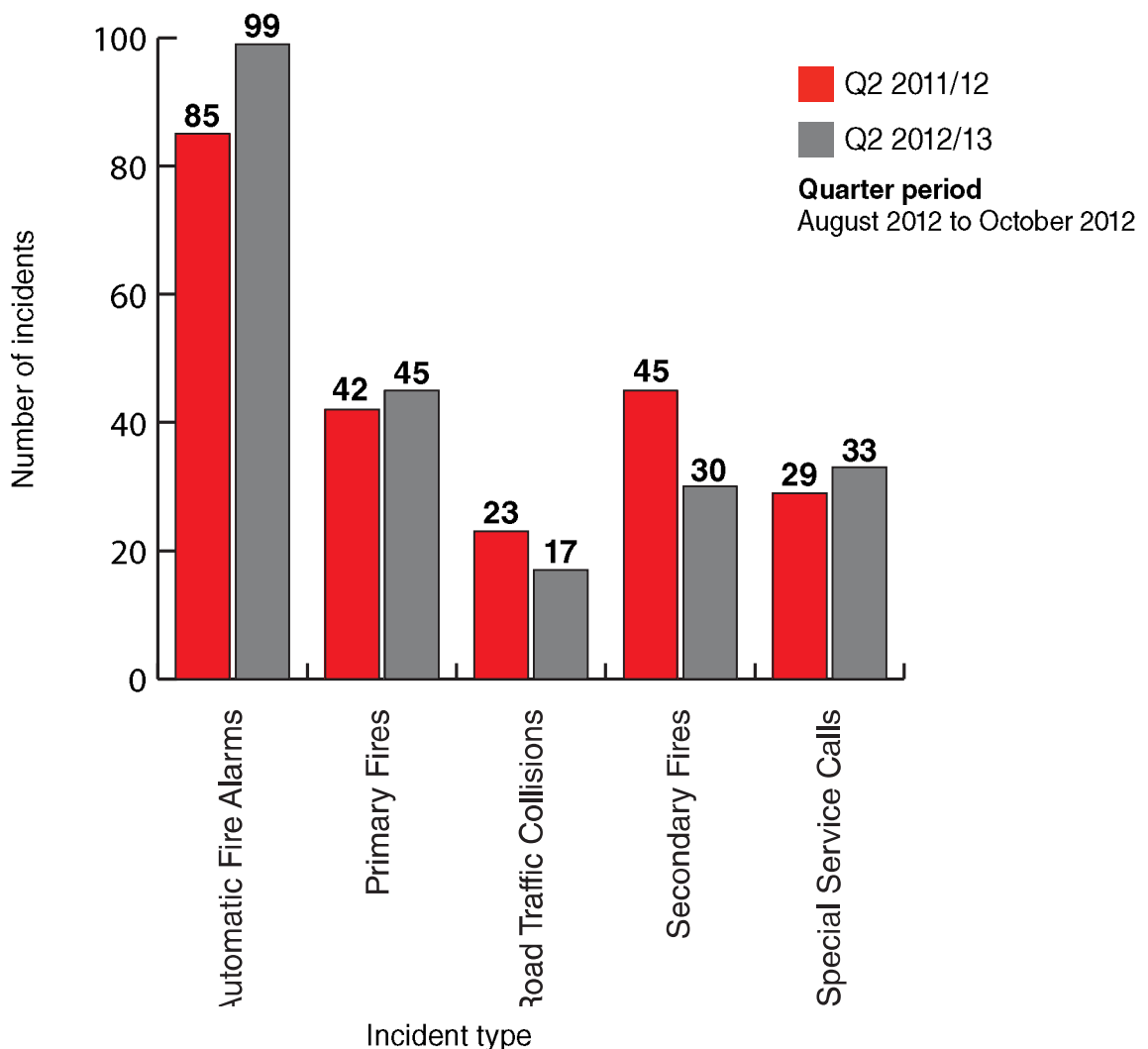
Prohibitions

There were no prohibition notices served during this reporting period.

Community Response

On 11 October 2012 at 04:59 fire crews were alerted to a hazardous materials incident in Chilbolton Road, Chilbolton. One 27 year-old male had sadly died from chemical poisoning. Resuscitation was given by firefighters and the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) team. Crews isolated the chemicals and one firefighter attended hospital due to chemical exposure and was later released safe and well.

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group
comparison of incidents attended



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 494
Smoke detectors fitted: 366

Fire Investigations

Southampton Group have had 15 investigations involving three vehicles, seven flats, four houses and a shop.

Arson and Risk Reduction

There were eight fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic Risk Groups

G, N and M

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

We completed 50 fire safety audits and protection officers have responded to 14 alleged fire risks. As a result of our response staff having received specific training on fire safety protection issues, called post incident protection protocols. Close working partnerships with local authority enforcing bodies have continued to see more fire safety issues being reported.

We have continued to be involved in pre-planning consultations for major building projects in the city to ensure we are able to influence the building's fire safety design. This involves the continued promotion for the use of automatic suppression systems to be included within the original design.

It was a great success when the developer for Park House, Above Bar, Southampton agreed to install sprinklers within the building. This will not only make the building safer for the occupants, but also reduces the risk to firefighters tackling a fire in the premises.

Partnership work with Southampton General Hospital has been successfully completed. There is now a new procedure in place to deal with automatic fire alarms (AFAs), and there has been a reduction in the amount of calls we attend.

Enforcement

Five enforcement notices and nine action plans have been issued, these have mainly been sleeping risks above licensed premises. We have also issued three alteration notices to ensure we are kept informed of any planned changes in premises.

Prohibitions

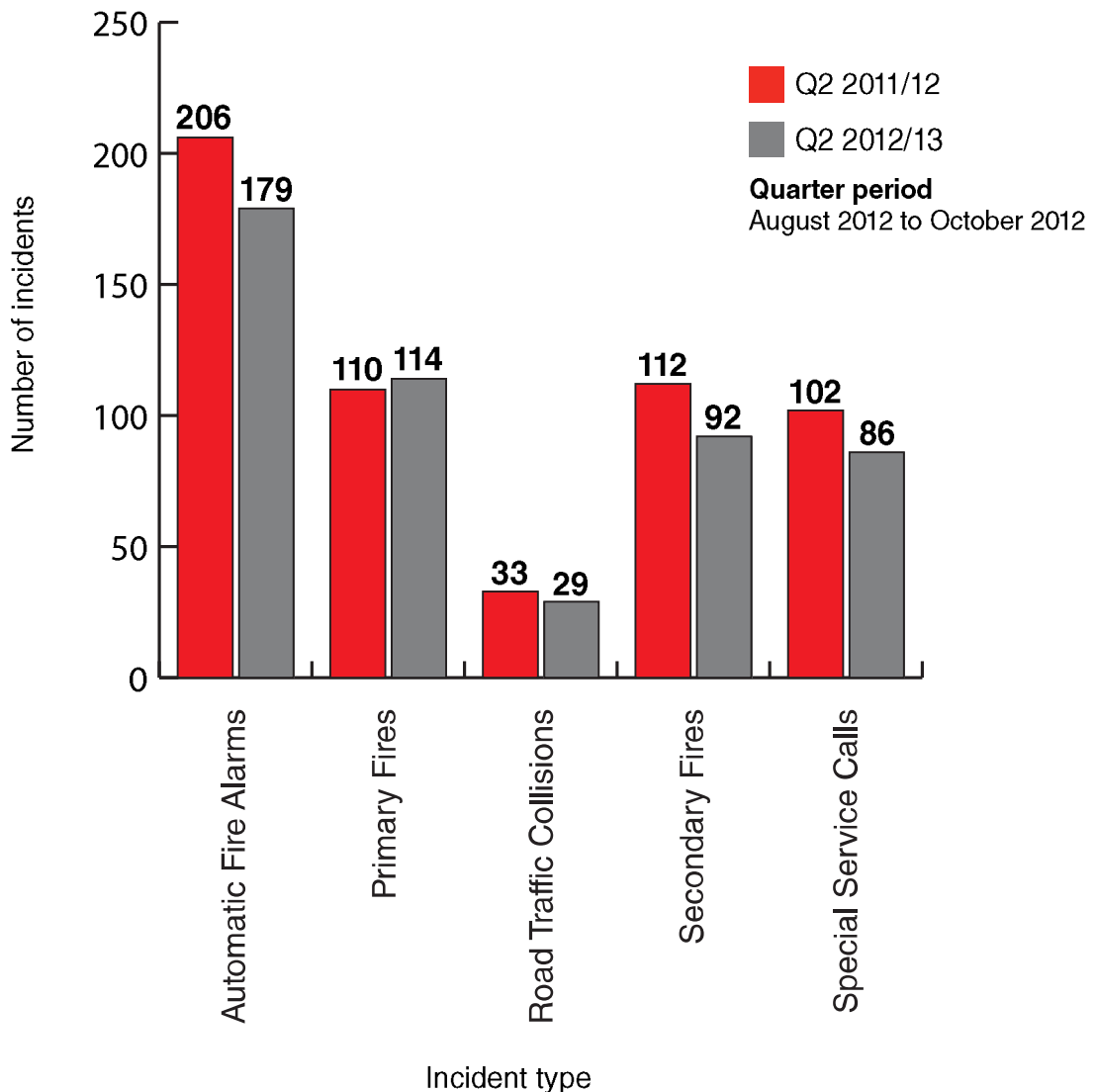
We served one prohibition notice on a building with sleeping accommodation above because life was at risk due to an inadequate fire alarm system and separation.

Community Response

On 28 September 2012 a fire broke out at a shipyard in Hazel Road, Woolston. The yard contained 30,000 tonnes of rubbish and over half an acre of it was on fire. HFRS attended the site for over five days involving 41 appliances, before the incident could be handed over to the site owners. (For more details please see 1.4)

On 16 October 2012 at 21:15 fire crews attended a fire in a chip shop in Townhill Way, Southampton. People were evacuated from 10 flats above the chip shop and an Indian restaurant. Firefighters used eight breathing apparatus, four jets and two hose reels to bring the blaze under control. The investigation determined that the cause was either ignition of grease within the extract ductwork or an electrical fault within the electrical connecting box.

Southampton Group
comparison of incidents attended



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 130
Smoke detectors fitted: 167

Fire Investigations

New Forest Group have had one investigation involving a cottage.

Arson and Risk Reduction

There were no fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic Risk Groups

A, D and B

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

We have actively researched and engaged with the rural community, in particular farms and smallholdings who have diversified their business interests. This work has uncovered a great many previously unknown sleeping and commercial risks. We continue to work with the local authority to reduce risk in their building stock, educate their personnel and drive down unwanted fire signals.

Enforcement

Four enforcement notices were served on licensed premises and takeaways with accommodation above. In an effort to better support business, we have opted for agreed action plans in lieu of enforcement notices on a further ten occasions.

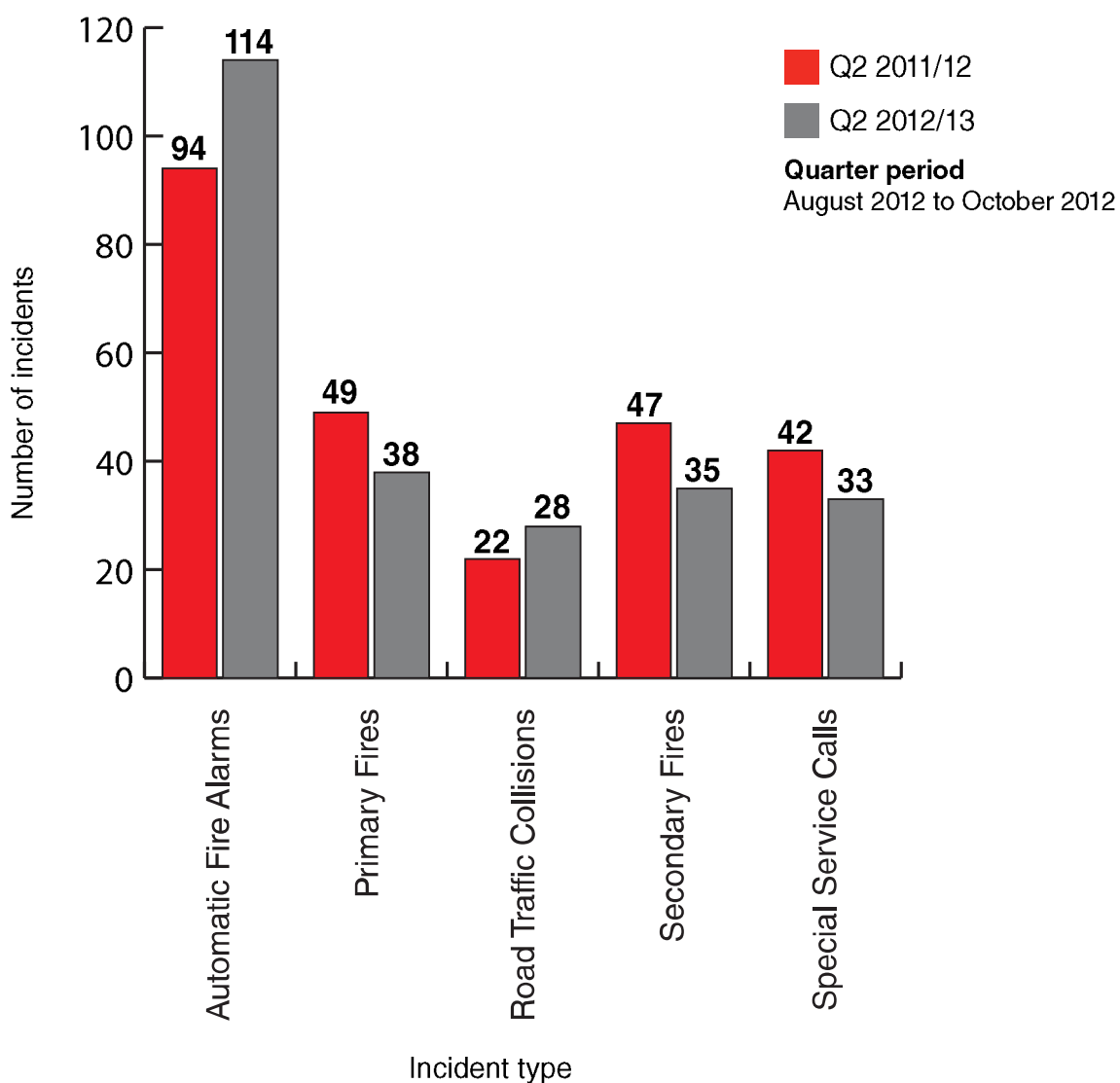
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices have been served during this reporting period.

Community Response

On 16 October 2012 at 17:28 six fire crews were alerted to a partially thatched property in Romsey Road, Cadnam. The fire involved 50 percent of the thatched roof and the first floor was 40 percent damaged by fire and water. The ground floor was also 20 percent damaged by smoke. Firefighters carried out salvage work and used 27 breathing apparatus, four jets, one compressed air foam system and two hose reels to bring the fire under control. The cause of this fire was accidental deemed to be the ignition of thatch from sparks, emitted from the chimney.

New Forest Group
comparison of incidents attended



Out of County

There has been no activity in this reporting period.

5.1

Fire crews tackle a fire in Portswood High Street

Control operators were alerted to a fire at Roosters Piri Piri food outlet at 11:07 on 3 November 2012.

The building was used for a food outlet on the ground floor with sleeping accommodation above and the fire involved the internal and external extraction system.

Five people were led to safety by firefighters and there was smoke logging throughout the premises as well as neighbouring properties.

Crews in attendance from St Mary's, Redbridge, Hightown and Winchester used 12 breathing apparatus, three jets and an aerial ladder platform to bring the blaze under control.

The fire was accidental and started by the spread of a cooking fire (fat) into the extraction system.

A protection officer carried out a post incident inspection and served a prohibition notice due to an inadequate escape route.

5.2

Crews were called to a fire at a high rise in Portsmouth

Fire crews were called to a fire in a tower block in All Saints Road, Buckland on 3 November at 20:00 hours.

Fire crews were unable to use vital fire safety pipes called dry risers because three landing valves were missing. Investigation with Portsmouth City Council determined the valves had been stolen for the value of the metal. Regular checks by the council are made to all high rise blocks to ensure fittings are serviceable and ready for use.

Firefighters had to take hoses up seven flights of stairs to the affected flat. Fire damage was contained within the lounge and balcony and the flat had significant smoke damage. There was also smoke damage to the communal hallway on the seventh floor.

Crews from Southsea, Cosham, Portchester, Waterlooville and Eastleigh were in attendance along with the aerial ladder platform from Southsea.

The investigation indicated that the fire spread from the balcony to the lounge and it was deemed to be accidental from a stray firework or burning embers from firework igniting dried leaves and plastic plant pots on balcony.

5.3

Burghclere school evacuated after fire in outside storage area

On 7 November Clere Secondary School in Burghclere was evacuated after a fire started in the school's sports hall.

Crews were alerted to the fire at 13:52 and arrived to find a developed fire in the roof space.

The roof housed a number of solar panels which altered firefighting tactics as by nature solar panels hold a charge making it difficult for crews. The crews used compressed air foam (CAFS) to fight the fire internally, but soon feared the roof would collapse so requested a structural engineer from Basingstoke City Council. The engineer was on the scene within 10 minutes to complete the survey and give approval to continue with fire fighting operations. This quick response enabled crew to stop the fire at 20 per cent damage to the roof.

The roof was severely damaged by the fire and crew in attendance included Overton, Basingstoke, Eastleigh and two appliances from Berkshire.

Equipment used included one compressed air foam jet, a water jet, two hose reels and 12 breathing apparatus.

The incident stopped at 17:19, allowing the school to open as normal the next day.

A fire investigation confirmed the cause as arson and the police investigation is ongoing.

5.4

Over 30 firefighters from Hampshire and Surrey tackle blaze at Farnborough industrial laundry

At 03:32 on 10 November 2012 crews were alerted to a fire at an industrial laundry in Rectory Road, Farnborough.

On arrival the building measuring 10m by 40m was well alight. Two neighbouring houses were evacuated as a precaution whilst fire fighting continued.

Crews arrived to find the large industrial building well alight. Firefighters worked hard through the night using traditional methods of water and compressed air foam (CAFS) to contain the blaze to the building and stop it spreading to nearby properties. An added difficulty was that there was inadequate access to water at the scene. To gain access to another sustainable water supply the multi-role vehicle was used to lay 28 lengths of hose to another hydrant.

Seven fire appliances from Rushmoor, Fleet, Camberley and Basingstoke were mobilised together with the special equipment unit and command support unit from Basingstoke and the multi-role vehicle from Eastleigh.

A fire investigation is currently ongoing to determine the cause of the fire.

Key to Mosaic Risk Groups

A

Residents of isolated rural communities

B

Residents of small and mid-sized towns with strong local roots

C

Wealthy people living in the most sought-after neighbourhoods

D

Successful professionals living in suburban or semi-rural homes

E

Middle income families living in moderate suburban semis

F

Couples with young children in comfortable modern housing

G

Young, well-educated city dwellers

H

Couples and young singles in small modern starter homes

I

Lower income workers in urban terraces in often diverse areas

J

Owner occupiers in older-style housing, typically in ex-industrial areas

K

Residents with sufficient incomes in right-to-buy social housing

L

Active elderly people living in pleasant retirement locations

M

Elderly people reliant on state support

N

Young people renting flats in high density social housing

O

Families in low-rise social housing with high levels of benefit need



HAMPSHIRE
**FIRE AND
RESCUE**
AUTHORITY

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